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HUNDREDS POTENTIALLY EXPOSED IN DATA BREACH OF COLLEGE'S THIRD-PARTY TICKET VENDOR

By ABIGAIL CHANG & LILY JONES
Editor in Chief & Senior News Editor

The third party vendor AudienceView, which Middleury uses for event ticketing, experienced a nation-wide data breach and notified the school about it on Feb. 23, the college told the community on Sunday. Though administrators were initially told the breach had not impacted anyone affiliated with the college, they later began to receive reports from students that their credit card information appeared to have been stolen.

Ticket sales through middlebury.universitytickets.com have been suspended until further notice, Interim Assistant Vice President for Information Technology Services (ITS) Chris Norris wrote in an email to the Middlebury community. Since then, Audience View has suspended all online sales for all schools, noting new security breach concerns.

On Feb. 28, AudienceView sent an email to some Middlebury community members it believed might have been impacted by the breach, providing additional information about the incident and what users could do. In an email to The Campus, Norris advised anyone who received this letter from AudienceView to assume they were exposed, whether or not they have noticed fraud on their account, and to cancel and replace their card as soon as possible.

AudienceViews, formerly called University Ticket, noticed suspicious activity within their product on Feb. 21 and began investigating, according to the email they sent to potentially exposed individuals.

"The investigation determined that between February 17, 2023, and February 21, 2023, certain individuals' information may have been subject to unauthorized access and acquisition," the email said.

The college is working to independently verify the relevant dates, and Norris told The Campus in his Wednesday statement that the vendor is now extending the date range of the investigation. Norris' email to Middlebury community members encouraged anyone who had purchased tickets at any point last month to check their accounts for fraudulent activity.

For the Feb. 17 to 21 timeframe, AudienceView identified 665 individuals whose information might have been exposed in the breach — 594 college community members and 71 from the surrounding community — according to Norris.

The data breach includes personal information such as names, billing addresses, email addresses, phone numbers and payment information, according Norris' all-school email. The breach did not impact in-person Box Office sales or other Middlebury systems, the college clarified.

AudienceView informed users of the data breach, which has impacted many higher education institutions. These include Worcester Polytechnic Institute, which addressed the issue on their web page. A number of students at Virginia Tech also recently reported credit card theft, and university police are investigating the matter in relation to the AudienceView breach, according to WDBJ7.

Some Middlebury students spoke to The Campus about credit or debit card fraud on their accounts following the AudienceView security breach.

Bailey Walker '24.5 got an alert from his bank on Feb. 21 that there was fraud detected on his debit card. There was a $300 charge for online fast fashion retailer Shein, and the fraudster attempted another $1,000 charge at Best Buy

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KATHERINE MICHAELSON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Last month, many students purchased tickets for the Winter Carnival Ball (pictured) through the AudienceView system embedded in the college's online event ticketing services.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Middlebury sees record-breaking applicant pool for third year in a row

ABIGAIL CHANG/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The college received applications from more than 13,200 students during this admissions cycle.

By ABIGAIL CHANG
Editor in Chief

Middlebury saw an uptick in its applicant pool this year, with 13,297 applications for the classes of 2027 and 2027.5. Nearly 12,000 prospective students applied during the regular decision round, and more than 1,300 applied in Early Decision rounds I and II.

"We feel fortunate to experience another year of high interest and continued growth in applications from a wide range of students," Dean of Admissions Nicole Curvin said in a college Newsroom article.

The Admissions Office accepted 516 students who applied early decision — an increase from the 438 accepted from the Early Decision I and II rounds last year. The office is currently reviewing regular decision applications.

The college has seen significant growth in its applicant numbers over the past few years, and this year's numbers are a 2% increase from last year's 13,028 applications for the class of 2026. Much of this increase was driven by a large uptick in early decision applications, which increased 28% from the year before.

This admissions cycle marks the third year in a row with a record-breaking applicant pool. Applications surged in the admissions cycle for the class of 2025 — the first admissions process conducted while the college was piloting its test optional policy — growing 30% from the year before. Middlebury accepted 15.7% of applicants in that year — a lower acceptance rate than the previous year's uptick to 24%. The college received 13,028 applications for the class of 2026 and admitted 15% of the pool.

This is Middlebury's first year partnering with QuestBridge, a nonprofit organization that offers full scholarships to low income students and matches them to selective colleges. The classes of 2027 and 2027.5 will include the first group of students admitted via the program.

The college expects a total enrollment of 735 for the classes of 2027 and 2027.5, with 650 students beginning in the fall and another 105 matriculating in February.

LOCAL

Snow Bowl plans to introduce night skiing in coming year

By MANDY BERGHELA
Staff Writer

A new addition at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl will offer skiers an opportunity to hit the slopes later in the day. The college is planning to install LED light fixtures within the next year, allowing for night skiing.

With trails first created in 1934, the Snow Bowl is one of the oldest ski areas in the state of Vermont. Located off of state Route 125 in Hancock, the Snow Bowl is a place where students, faculty and community members alike come together to ski and snowboard more than 700 acres of trails.

The Snow Bowl is currently just open to the public during the daytime, but the state recently approved the installation of LED lights on the Sheehan Lift and the Discovery Zone in order to expand hours for night skiing.

Mike Hussey, director of the Snow Bowl, confirmed that night skiing is indeed in the works and said he is enthusiastic about the addition.

"It is definitely happening," Hussey told The Campus. "We got the permit last fall, and we own all the parts and pieces now. We even tried to begin last fall, but the stars didn't align. We will be spearheading this project come summer."

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Charlotte Marks '23.5 earns NFHCA DIII National Scholar-Athlete Award
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Changing class time slots affects faculty, students, does not ease lunch lines

By DANIZA TAZABEKOVA
Campus Journalism Fellow

ABIGAIL CHANG/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The college drafted the new schedule in fall 2021 and received feedback from administrators and faculty in the following year.

This spring, the Office of the Registrar implemented a new schedule to increase flexibility for faculty scheduling, decrease certain kinds of overrides during student registration and better distribute classroom space.

According to Jen Thompson of the registrar, faculty prefer the use of bi-weekly 75-minute meeting patterns for their courses.

"Creating additional 75-minute meeting patterns on Mondays and Wednesdays gave faculty more options. We also pushed back the start of the classes from 8:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. for 75-minute meeting patterns, and from 8:00 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. for 50-minute meeting patterns," Thompson said. "These changes resulted in more courses offered in the 8:00 hour and a more widely distributed course schedule."

The new schedule was drafted in the fall of 2021. From January 2022 through March 2022, the Registrar presented and received feedback on the schedule from administrators and the full faculty.

The former schedule had classes beginning and ending at 1:30 p.m. and involved an 8:40–9:55 a.m. time slot that conflicted with two other morning class sessions. The new schedule eliminates these conflicts, allowing students to register for classes without requesting time conflict overrides.

> "Our hope was to ease enrollment congestion on the popular Tuesday/Thursday time slots..."

"Our hope was to ease enrollment congestion on the popular Tuesday/Thursday time slots by creating more opportunities for departments to spread out classes throughout the week and provide students with more options to build balanced schedules," Thompson said.

The new schedule also optimizes classroom utilization. The former schedule filled many classrooms on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with little flexibility to offer alternative classroom space options. Meanwhile, classrooms sat empty and unused during many other time slots.

"Adding additional 75-minute meeting patterns allowed classes to distribute more evenly throughout the week and consequently, opened up classrooms to allow for some opportunity for classroom reassignments, if necessary," Thompson said.

Thompson also emphasized a focus on modest changes to prevent a substantial disruption to faculty routines.

"We wanted the new schedule to be similar enough to the former schedule such that faculty who wanted to continue with the class meeting times they've used in the past would be able to find an equivalent time block in the new schedule," Thompson said.

However, the new schedule has decreased the amount of time some professors have to prepare for classes.

According to Matthew Walker, assistant professor of Russian, the new schedule "disrupts a pattern that, if you've taught here for a while, you get pretty used to."

"We usually spend 75 minutes with students in class, but we always need some kind of prep time beforehand. I teach one class in the afternoon and then I have 15 minutes to prepare for my next class before students come in," Walker said. "The next class has a different approach to Russian literature, so it almost requires a different side of my brain to teach. When my usual pattern gets disrupted, I have to figure out new ways of preparing for courses."

Another unforeseen circumstance to come out of the change is the impact on lunch lines. Many students have recently noticed that the lunch lines have gotten much longer and slower.

> "The lines are so bad that I don't even eat between my classes anymore. I just go straight to my next class and wait for dinner."

Caroline Deleon '26 noticed a difference in the usual Atwater lunch lines.

"After Japanese class, my only chance to get lunch is from 11:15 to 12:30, and now everybody else is scrambling to get lunch at Atwater. It wasn't like that before," Deleon said. "When I tried to go to Ross instead, the line was even worse."

Sherlyn Gonzalez-Mejia '26 said that she only has 15 minutes between classes to get lunch.

"The lines are so bad that I don't even eat between my classes anymore. I just go straight to my next class and wait for dinner," Gonzalez-Mejia said.

"It's not to say that the new class time slots have made rush hour worse, but they certainly didn't help," Deleon said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mike Thomas, vice president for administration and chief risk officer, to leave for Amherst

By LILY JONES
Senior News Editor

Mike Thomas, vice president for administration and chief risk officer, plans to leave Middlebury in March and enter a new role as the Chief Financial and Administrative Office at Amherst College.

Thomas came to Middlebury in 2013 after working previously at Skidmore College. During his time at Middlebury, Thomas oversaw Covid-19 operations, worked to hire a new Public Safety director, helped address student concerns regarding safety, oversaw the creation of student housing at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) and served as the finance lead of Oracle for the Green Mountain Higher Education Consortium (GMHEC).

"Mike [Thomas] shared with us that this new position will allow him to move into a leading financial and administrative role and to build on his many achievements of the last 10 years at Middlebury," President Patton wrote in an email to faculty and staff. "He will oversee both finance and operations as a member of the senior leadership team and as a strategic partner for the president and Board of Trustees."

Amherst announced that Thomas will begin his role on March 27 of this year. In a press release, President of Amherst College Michael Elliott said, "His track record of inclusive leadership at Middlebury demonstrated that he knows what it means to lead a talented team and to work in collaboration with faculty, staff and students. He will be a critical strategic partner to me and to all of us at Amherst."

"We are grateful for Mike's leadership in all of these initiatives, and we will share more about the leadership transition closer to his departure," President Patton wrote.

COURTESY PHOTO

Thomas oversaw a number of projects and efforts at the college, including Covid-19 operations.

Black History Week features book signing with award-winning photographer and new hair events

By JESSICA LI
Contributing Writer

The Anderson Freeman Resource Center (AFC) hosted Black History Week from Feb. 20 to 26, featuring various events that acknowledge and celebrate Blackness such as "My Beautiful Black Hair: Lecture and Book Signing," Black History meals, Black to Ta Old Skool Karaoke and Hair Day.

Black History Week is an annual event held at the college every February designed for the celebration of Black History Month (BHM), officially established in 1976 to honor the achievements of African Americans. This year, responding to the theme of Black Resistance chosen by The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the AFC has planned and organized a series of events to cherish the culture and achievements of the Black community on campus.

"We as students, workers and fellows at the AFC helped to research for the events," said Julissa Rojas '26, the AFC Fellow for BIPOC students. "We spent a lot of time coordinating and planning what we want the events to come to life because it's important to create an affinity space for Black students on campus."

The highlight of this year's Black History Week events was the lecture and book signing with St. Clair Detrick-Jules, an award-winning filmmaker, photographer, author and activist whose work centers on Black liberation, immigrant justice and women's rights. Sharing the collection of photographs and stories of 101 Black women embracing their crowns in her debut book, "My Beautiful Black Hair: 101 Natural Hair Stories," Detrick-Jules discussed the importance of natural hair and hair care to Black people and their identity.

> "When you hold a glass of water for a minute, you'll be fine... But if you have to hold it for years, it is almost unbearable."

Detrick-Jules shared the story of her four-year-old sister, Khloe, who was bullied and became ashamed of her hair because her afro stood out in a predominantly white class. Relating to her personal experience and the stories of interviewees, she used a metaphor to explain the ongoing discrimination towards Black women because of their naturally curly or coiled hair.

"When you hold a glass of water for a minute, you'll be fine... But if you have to hold it for years, it is almost unbearable," Detrick-Jules said. "That's what I think about when I think about the burden that so many Black kids grow up with, that burden of self-hatred, that burden of thinking that our hair, our skin color, and our features are not worthy of love."

When recalling the interview process of the book, Detrick-Jules spoke of the power of first-person storytelling in building a close community of support and developing an appreciation of vulnerability within it.

"A community can just be a moment when the four of us sit in a restaurant and sort of create this understanding that it's okay to be vulnerable," Detrick-Jules said. "And [within the community] our stories are going to be met with nothing but love and grace."

Detrick-Jules also spoke of the significance of the afro as part of the Black identity, describing how it could act as a connector to the past.

"Our hair is a tie to the root to which Black identity is grounded," she said. "It is a reminder of the powerful ancestors who came before us and who survived so much that we could be here today."

In the end, Detrick-Jules brought up the concept of texturism, an idea of privileging certain hair textures over others, and expressed her pursuit of creating a world in which "all hair textures are celebrated" and "no one feels like they have to change their hair in order to fit in."

> "A community can just be a moment when the four of us sit in a restaurant and sort of create this understanding that it's okay to be vulnerable."

The most notable difference of this year's Black History Week is the addition of hair events. Black History Month Barber Day and Hair Day were hosted on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, where barbers, braiders and stylists from Burlington were available for haircuts and hair design. Shampoo bottles and conditioners for afro were also given away to students.

"There aren't many places where students with curly hair can get their hair done," Rojas said. "So, we are creating something similar to that. In the future, we'll probably have a vending machine selling hair products so that they are more accessible to students."

On Wednesday, the annual Black History Month dining takeover was held at all dining halls on campus for all three meals. Students enjoyed dishes from the Black diaspora, including African American, African, and West Indian or Caribbean popular foods like Southern Fried Chicken, Escovitch Fish, Jollof Rice and Curried Jamaican Stew.

> "There aren't many places where students with curly hair can get their hair done. So, we are creating something similar to that."

Other events included a karaoke night featuring music from Black artists and Black History Trivia where students competed in groups to answer questions regarding music, movies, people, sayings and history.

Hundreds potentially exposed in data breach of college's third-party ticket vendor

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after Walker froze his card.

"I get that these things happen, and I'm grateful that my situation resolved itself, but I'm annoyed that this happened because I was participating in school events like the Winter Ball," Walker said, referring to the Winter Carnival Ball, which took place on Feb. 18. More than 600 students bought tickets for the ball, with many using the college Box Office website, which uses AudienceView, to make their purchases.

"I initially thought it was from a bad purchase I made online, but I already think it's kind of ridiculous that we have to pay $5 for small things like the Ball or thesis productions and on top of that the service lost our data and may have cost people a lot of money," Walker said.

Tiffany Li '26 had $994 charged to her account when a fraudster tried to make a purchase at New Life Cardio Equipment. She is currently waiting for a new card to be shipped to her.

"I'm glad that for me it got caught and I didn't actually lose money, but it's been a little inconvenient when I need to use my card for purchases," Li said.

Halsey Smith '23 is also getting a new card after her bank detected a fraudulent charge for $5,364 to California benefit overpayment services. Her bank is reimbursing her for the charge.

> "I'm glad that for me it got caught and I didn't actually lose money..."

As the college has paused use of AudienceView, ticketing for many upcoming events will take place in person at the Box Office. For the "Choral Chameleon: Music for Chameleons" concert taking place on Feb. 3, the college said the Box Office will open at 6:30 p.m. so attendees can buy tickets in person at the door. Other upcoming events will also rely on in-person or phone ticket sales for the time being, according to Norris.

Abigail Chang/The Middlebury Campus

Though the college has paused online ticket sales at go/boxoffice, individuals can still purchase tickets for upcoming events in person at the Box Office or by phone.

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAMPUS?

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AFTER DELAYS, COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND ON SOLAR PROJECT

By ASA STONE
Staff Writer

Asa Stone/The Middlebury Campus

Site of the solar panels on South Street Extension.

Middlebury College launched a new solar panel project in October 2021 on South Street Extension in a partnership with Green Mountain Power and Encore Renewables. Construction on the project was intended to be completed by the end of 2022. Despite this initial deadline, installation has just started off of South Street Extension with an unknown energy production date, possibly in summer 2023.

Ongoing construction

Location selection for the solar array was controversial, The Campus reported in fall 2021, and some residents who own land abutting the project site expressed disappointment about the selection process.

After the location for the solar panels was determined and cleared by the town, the project still required extensive planning before construction could begin. This required collaboration between Encore Renewables, the head contractor for construction on the project, Green Mountain Power (GMP), which provides transformational energy to 75% of Vermont, the college and the town, according to the GMP website.

"Construction is in process now. Racks (equipment that solar arrays are mounted on) are being installed now," Mike Moser, director of Facilities Services, wrote in an email to The Campus. After the racks are installed by Encore, the actual solar array will be put in and connected to the grid by Green Mountain Power.

Moser projected that once everything is built and connected to the power grid, the 30-acre, five-megawatt project will generate approximately 40% of the college's annual energy.

"Everything really gets built on-site. The steel gets shipped in, the panels get shipped in," Matthew Curran, director of Business Services, told The Campus. Curran said they faced supply chain issues that created problems, but those issues have since been resolved and the project is now in full motion. Construction of the site is ongoing and Green Mountain Power is working to make sure the infrastructure in place will support the solar array.

Community engagement

In addition to the 30 acres for the solar panel array, the college plans to transform the remaining land on South Street Extension into a new hiking trail.

The South Street Solar Project committee of the college's Environmental Council has been tasked with creating the trail around the solar field to mitigate environmental impact, increase educational opportunities and provide a community-oriented space. Council members Jasper Pearcy '26, Peter Mans '26, Bella Lucente '25 and Facilities Services staff member Jim Zieger met with The Campus to discuss their involvement in the solar array and what they hope to come of the project.

"Our job is to make the most of the land around the solar site," Mans said. "The decision to put the solar site there was completely separate from us. But given that, [we consider] what can we do with the surrounding area to have increased community and student engagement, and general interest in the site and the work that the college is doing."

The committee has been working with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), the engineering firm hired by Encore to design the solar site, in order to plan and design the trail.

"There are other solar sites up and down Route 7 that Encore has been managing and they've used VHB as their engineering firm," Zieger said. "There are other trails up around Burlington that they have designed for municipalities and have worked with Encore to plan those."

With the help of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin's technology, the committee has used satellite imagery to lay out maps of the trail that will be a loop about a mile long. They plan for the trail to eventually connect to the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) in order to bring in more community engagement.

While the solar array fulfills the renewable energy goals of the college, it also serves educational purposes, both Curran and the committee told The Campus. One of the goals of the college's Energy2028 mission is a "Commitment to Educational Opportunities," so while the solar array will be fulfilling the renewable energy goals of the college, it also serves this purpose.

There may also be possibilities for outdoor classrooms, exercise areas and lookouts to both the Greens and the Adirondacks on the land, all of which are in the early planning stages. In addition to the trail around the solar field, the committee hopes that there will be signage explaining both the energy service that the solar site provides and the land's history.

"We are hoping to talk to the Abenaki Language Program to put some information about the history of the land [on the signs]," Zieger said. "We're looking for some farming history of the land and what the conversion was from the lands that it originally was when it was wetlands."

Additionally, the committee has reached out to both Eddy Farm to see if they have interest in making the trails equestrian-friendly and Eastview at Middlebury, a Senior Retirement Community adjacent to the land, to consider what their community members would like to see on the trail as neighbors.

The chance to plant pollinator gardens within the solar array and on the trail is another environmental interest of the committee. "One thing that is going to come later but that we're still pushing for is involvement with Bee the Change, which is an organization that promotes bee populations and native pollinator species and their habitats," Lucente said. On its website, Bee the Change states that it has fields in 45 towns and has created a habitat equivalent to every Vermont household making a 10' x 10' pollinator garden.

The committee is working with the college's Office of Advancement to secure funding for the trail, and is currently awaiting news on the status of funding.

Once built, both the solar array and the surrounding trail surrounding will be a chance for the college and the greater Middlebury community to collaborate on sustainable energy planning and recreation.

Anyone with input for the Solar Project Committee of the Environmental Council can reach out to southst.solarsitecommittee@middleburycollege.onmicrosoft.com.

MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD AMENDS TOWN NOISE ORDINANCE

By COLE CHAUDHARI
Contributing Writer

The Middlebury Selectboard approved an amendment to the town's noise ordinance at its Jan. 24 meeting, lengthening the period of quiet hours on weekends and holidays.

Under the previous ordinance, quiet hours did not begin until 1 a.m. on weekends and holidays. The amendment pushed forward quiet hours so that they now begin at 11 p.m. Quiet hours on weeknights — 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. — were unchanged by the amendment.

The update to the noise ordinance arose from an ongoing conflict between off-campus college students and town residents, which began in the spring of 2022. In an email to The Campus, Selectboard member Andy Hooper wrote that the conflict was centered around two recently converted off-campus properties. Boston-based Middlebury parent, Richard Tinsley P'23, bought the two properties — one on North Pleasant Street and one on Washington Street Extension — in late 2021 and reconfigured them into student housing.

Town residents living near the North Pleasant Street and Washington Street Extension properties have complained that both Tinsley and the students living there have been unresponsive to their noise concerns.

"The student occupants were much more disruptive to the neighbors than the previous tenants," Hooper explained. "And those neighbors came to the Selectboard to see if we could provide some remedy."

Earlier this year, the Selectboard voted to change town zoning laws after a number of complaints about students living off campus, but the measure could not be passed due to a procedural issue.

In revising the noise ordinance, the college administration worked closely with the Selectboard to agree on these new quiet hours. In an email to The Campus, Dean of Students Derek Doucet wrote that "Middlebury representatives attended two of the Select Board meetings where the noise ordinance was discussed, and we shared our perspective."

In Selectboard meetings leading up to the approval of the new noise ordinance, members discussed the administrative mechanisms for reporting complaints about off-campus student living. Doucet introduced an online reporting form earlier this fall, which allows residents to submit their issues with off-campus students directly to the college.

The college administration also ensured that the ordinance would include accommodations for programmed events that regularly extend past 11 p.m., such as concerts, Reunion, Commencement and certain Language School events.

Another notable change is that noise complaints can now be filed at any time, and a potential transgression need not occur within the boundaries of quiet hours to be considered a violation of the noise ordinance.

"No person or persons shall make or continue, or cause to be made or continued, any excessive, unnecessary, or unreasonably loud noise or disturbance which disturbs, destroys, or endangers the comfort, quiet, repose, health, peace or safety of others within the immediate vicinity of the noise or disturbance," the ordinance reads.

The town will charge up to $800 for people found in violation of the ordinance.

Though the matter of the revised ordinance is settled for now, town residents still disagree about the college's responsibility in monitoring the lifestyles — be they disruptive or not — of students living off-campus in town.

"There has been tension among neighbors and different opinions on the Selectboard about the role of the college in supervising students living off campus," Hooper noted in his email. "Some residents would like the college to be more transparent about complaints received and disciplinary actions taken."

Since the enactment of the revised ordinance in late January, the Selectboard has not received any direct noise or nuisance complaints from residents of Middlebury.

Courtesy of Nadia Hare

Many off-campus students live in apartment buildings in downtown Middlebury, though these were not the residences specifically mentioned in Selectboard discussions.

Snow Bowl plans to introduce night skiing in coming year

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The permit that Hussey referred to is the Vermont Act 250 permit. The permit is part of Vermont's Act 250, a state land use and development law created in 1970 that ensures the protection of Vermont's landscape and community by having mandated checks on development projects within the state. This involves a process of reviewing the social, fiscal and environmental costs and benefits of each project. The LED installation passed this review, so it complies with state statutes.

Not the entirety of the Snow Bowl will be lit up, however. Only certain trails will be outfitted with LED fixtures.

"We will be putting them up on trails served by the Sheehan Lift, including the novice Lang trail, Kelton and Hadley for intermediates and expert Cameron trail, as well as the Discovery Zone for beginners as well," Hussey said.

For recreation, the Lang and Kelton trails will be covered by 10 LUX lights. The Cameron trail will have 20 LUX lights for skiers training for races, according to New England Ski Industry.

The lights will use electrical conduits that are laid onto the ground next to the snowmaking lines and will be mounted on 30-foot poles.

Not only are Middlebury Snow Bowl staff excited for the lights to be installed, but students, too, are excited for the possibility of night skiing.

Piper Harring '25, a member of the Middlebury Ski Patrol, said she is thrilled about the addition of night skiing. Harring said she believes it will make skiing more accessible for students.

"I think that the addition of night skiing will be really great for the Snow Bowl and Middlebury students," Harring told The Campus. "Once the spring semester starts and people's schedules start filling up, it can be hard for people who love skiing to find time for it. The addition of night skiing would be a great way to make the snow bowl more accessible for students and community members alike."

Anna Doucet '26 expressed similar sentiments.

"Night skiing is very fun, and I would expect a lot of interest from students and the community," Doucet said. "It would also bring in a lot more money for the Snow Bowl through rentals and lift tickets."

Although net earnings have not been predicted, the project is expected to cost around $675,000, including both the price of the physical lights and the installation process.

In addition to student excitement surrounding night skiing, Hussey said he hopes that community members can also get more involved with the Snow Bowl because of the increased accessibility for workers.

"It will benefit the community as a whole," Hussey said. "We want to make sure that everyone is given the time to ski, and I think this really does it."

Hussey added that they plan to have night skiing available three days a week — Wednesday, Thursday and Friday — for about three hours a night.

"We are hoping to reestablish the high school ski team as well with this new addition, which would definitely benefit the young community members here," Hussey said.

The Snow Bowl has not released any official statement about the new addition, so some students are raising some questions that have yet to be answered.

Talia Trigg '26, an avid skier, said she is wondering about transportation.

"I love night skiing, but the prospect makes me wonder if the TVT Snow Bowl shuttle bus will run later into the evening, since I rely on it to get to and from the Snow Bowl."

Though there is no word yet on transportation, the Snow Bowl will begin releasing updates and official statements on the new addition on their social media accounts in the coming months, Hussey said.

Courtesy of Emma McMahan

Photo at the top of the Snowbowl at dusk.

Middlebury College climate action and the Fall 2022 Climate Attitudes Survey

Op-Ed

Kelly Ferrero *is a member of the class of 2024.* ***Cole Helgaas*** *is a member of 2023.*

In fall of 2022, Professor Julia Berazneva's Climate Change Economics class (ECON 0365) put out a survey about attitudes on campus towards climate change and potential policies the school could adopt. The survey had 1,265 total respondents including 350 faculty and staff members. Notably, 55% of respondents identified as female and only 39% as male, with the remainder identifying as non-binary, other, or declining to answer. Over 95% of respondents said that climate change was a "very important" or "quite important" societal problem. With broad support across the board, addressing climate change is clearly an important issue for much of the campus. We asked survey questions about potential policies the school could adopt to address climate change including adjusting thermostats, meat-free dining days, an internal carbon charge and a new distribution requirement.

The most popular of the proposed policies was turning down the thermostat in certain buildings. This policy would simultaneously reduce energy consumption and increase comfort in particular buildings that are frequently overheated in the winter, meaning occupants are less likely to have to open windows when a room is too hot. Downregulating the thermostats in certain buildings had broad support — 85% of respondents indicated they were for this policy, and there were minimal differences in support across student, faculty, staff and gender lines. In fact, some respondents even listed buildings that they thought were too hot. Downregulating thermostats could easily be instituted in buildings like Proctor, Sunderland, Munroe or the Athletic Center. Since heating is so energy intensive, a one- to five-degree Fahrenheit decrease in temperature during the winter months could have a large effect on reducing our emissions. This policy is overwhelmingly popular, easy to implement, and should actually save the college money. Based on these findings, we recommend that the college should implement this change in certain buildings immediately to both increase occupant comfort and reduce carbon emissions, particularly in the energy intensive winter months.

The survey also asked about the Middlebury community's attitude towards reducing the college's carbon-intensive meat consumption by reintroducing a meat-free day in each dining hall on a rotating basis. This proposed policy also received strong support, with 72% of students expressing support for meat-free days. Interestingly, 80% of female-identifying respondents showed support for the policy, but only 60% of male-identifying people were in support. One criticism of this policy that we received was that climate initiatives should require institutional change rather than individual responsibility, but we should remember that institutional changes will require personal sacrifices. We recommend that the college experiment with meat-free meals — a policy that the school has employed in the past.

Some of our policy ideas were more controversial. For example, the survey assessed attitudes towards implementing a campus-wide carbon charge — a variation on a carbon tax that the school could implement internally in order to incentivize emissions reductions. These charges could be organized by department, by building, or in some other way and would affect energy consumption and possibly other sources of emissions. The overall support among respondents was 65%. However, while 71% of students supported the carbon charge, faculty and staff supported it at a rate of just 57% and 56%, respectively. This may be because an internal carbon charge would have very little effect on students' day to day lives while faculty and staff would have to work to institute and work around the new charge. Many respondents indicated they would like to learn more about the carbon charge before deciding whether or not they would support the policy. We do not know enough about what the structure or efficacy of a carbon charge would be like at Middlebury to make a recommendation at this time.

A new "climate change and sustainability" academic distribution requirement was proposed to raise climate awareness and competence, though this would not directly reduce college emissions. The proposal received 72% support overall, but with students and staff rating it higher than faculty, in the order of a 20 percentage point difference. Adding a new distribution requirement would be a dramatic change to the school's existing requirements, but it would ensure that all students would leave the college with some academic background in climate change and sustainability. While this policy had strong support from students and staff, we think that the college should focus on ideas that may be easier to implement in the near-term and have more immediate, tangible effects.

With any policy that the school does implement, there are many necessary considerations. We need to know who is affected by the policy and who carries the responsibility of actually implementing it. For example students supported the internal carbon charge at a higher rate than faculty and staff, but students are also unlikely to bear the consequences of the policy. Faculty, who would have to make changes to their curriculum and reprioritize different learning outcomes, were less likely to support a new distribution requirement. Another key consideration is near-term feasibility. Resetting the thermostat, particularly in modernized buildings would be easy and low consequence, but instituting an internal carbon charge could be a bureaucratic nightmare and affect the day-to-day operations of every department and division on campus.

Regardless of any specific policy outcome, it is clear that Middlebury students, staff, and faculty want to investigate and pursue new ways to address climate change.

Professor Berazneva and the students of ECON 365 thank everyone in the community that participated, as well as the Environmental Affairs office and the Climate Capacity Project for their collaboration on the survey.

INTRODUCING CLOSET MAGAZINE: QUEERING THE CAMPUS

Op-Ed

Sophia Cole *is a member of the class of 2025.*

What would it look like to create a centralized platform to engage in boundary-defying artwork, critical conversation and innovative content for the Middlebury community? Do we have a space that's diverse and disruptive, a community that touches on the tension between tradition and (trans)formation?

As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I often find myself seeking a space where I can explore my identity and connect with others with similar yet unique lived experiences. When I arrived at Middlebury, I was excited to find a welcoming community of queer individuals passionate about creating a space to express ourselves and support one another. Student organizations such as Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC), Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM) and Queers and Allies (Q&A) are extremely important spaces that foster discussion, healing and support on campus. However, I began to notice an information gap between the marginalized community and the dominant community at Middlebury. Wanting to break that boundary between the subordinate and dominant identities on campus while still preserving the sacred space of marginalized communities of care, I began brainstorming platforms I could generate to increase visibility and celebrate Middlebury's marginalized voices with a new, creative approach.

Expression looks different for everyone. For some, expression can manifest into fruitful discussions, but expression can also look like poetry, photography, journaling, painting or passionate critiques of issues that affect them. I simply want to generate a platform to create, to express my underrepresented identity in all its glory that, to put it bluntly, makes the cisheteropatriarchy sh*t itself. Quite frankly, creation is queer. And no, I don't just mean queer as in sexuality. I mean queer as in lifestyle. Queer as in deconstructing the normative. Queer as in liberation. We're taught that media is supposed to be aesthetically pleasing yet palatable — don't show too much skin; don't be too critical of the institution; don't make a spectacle of yourself. I took this as a challenge. I want the presence of the underrepresented community to explode into the Middlebury community like pop rocks: shocking, bold and impossible to ignore.

Enter Closet Magazine (get it?), a new platform and community for underrepresented creatives with marginalized racial, gender, class and sexuality identities to translate complex emotions, sensations and experiences into creative expression while bringing voices to the surface to deconstruct the dominant identities currently prevalent at Middlebury College. These voices can be queer, trans, female, Asian, Latinx, African and more. Imagine individuals expressing themselves, their vision, ideas and critique through powerful poetry, sex-positive art, queer fashion photography and expressive writing. The magazine will publish its first issue online late Spring 2023, and the pieces presented in the magazine will be from open calls and in-house staff work developed throughout this spring. Students will be able to submit work through a Google Form open now until March 26 found at go/closetopencall/. We want to provide students with the agency to create. We will not limit what kinds of work will be published; we are open to everything. Follow the magazine Instagram @ closetmagazinee to keep up with updates!

Closet Magazine will cultivate the intersection between creativity and critique for students to present their culture and the issues important to them in unique ways. That being said, we also want to connect the campus to the world, bridging our personal experiences and issues through a global lens. I see the magazine as an opportunity to educate the wider Middlebury community about LGBTQIA+, race, gender and class issues. While there is certainly a great deal of support for queer students on campus, there are also many students and faculty members who are still learning about their identity or about the identities of those around them. By providing a platform where queer students can see themselves represented and celebrated, I hope to not only contribute to the scholarly and cultural conversation at Middlebury, but to create a greater sense of belonging and community for students with marginalized identities.

Creating a queer culture magazine on the Middlebury College campus is an important step in promoting visibility, community and education around marginalized identities. By fostering a greater sense of understanding and support, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable world for all.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

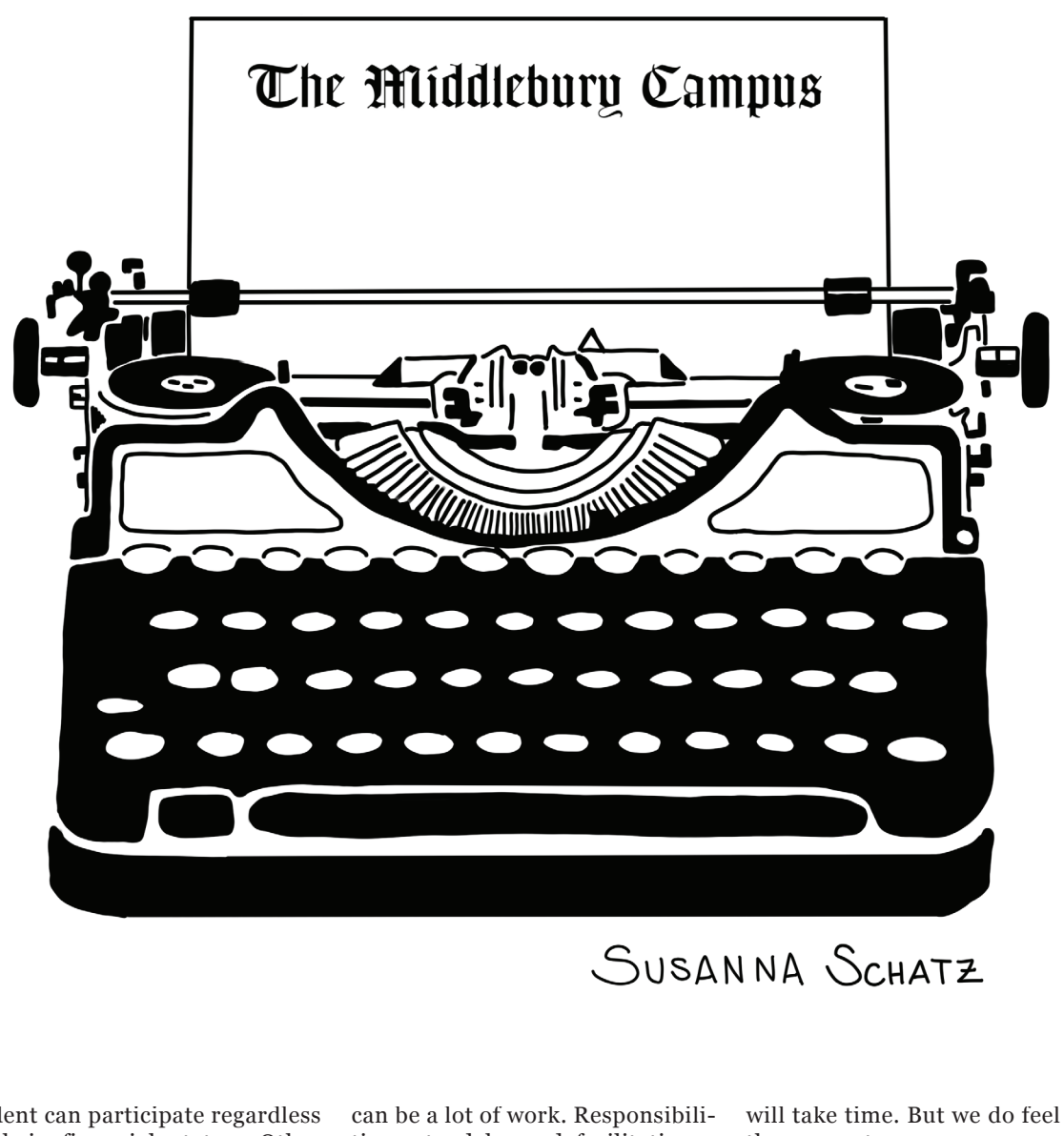
The Campus accepts submissions of opinions, reflections and letters to the editor from all members of our community, every week. Pieces from students, staff and faculty are all welcomed for consideration.

Email **llaesch@middlebury.edu** with submissions.

THE CASE FOR COMPENSATING STUDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERS

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.



The Middlebury College experience is marketed to prospective students as a place full of extracurricular possibilities and opportunities. We've all seen the brochures and heard the classic line about student organizations at Middlebury: If you don't see a club that interests you, start one.

But this idealistic suggestion fails to capture the full reality of leading a student organization: leadership is a lot of work — a lot of unpaid work. Organization officers take on massive, time-consuming responsibilities to provide a service to the college community. In some cases, these services are essential to student-life operation — take the Middlebury College Activities Board, for example. In other cases, such as that of many affinity groups, student organizations are the only outlets that students from historically underrepresented backgrounds have for mutual support and community. But given that students are already juggling the ever-present academic and financial responsibilities of going to a rigorous higher education institution with an ever-increasing sticker price, the opportunity to invest time and energy into a student organization leadership position is simply not — despite what the college might say — available to every student.

Student efforts to secure compensation for their labor have gained traction in recent years. MiddView orientation leaders successfully pushed for pay throughout last academic year and into the beginning of this one, eventually securing a stipend for their work. Though the system wasn't perfect, it was still a step in the right direction. The college also recently agreed to gradually increase ResLife student-staff pay, following student advocacy. And in some cases, the college began to monetarily recognize student labor without an organized push from those impacted. After years of going unpaid, student tour guides began to get paychecks last spring.

We're glad that these student leaders have started to receive compensation for their work. We hope this indicates the college's interest in listening to student advocacy in this particular area and working to find solutions. With this in mind, we want to put forward a case for the necessity of compensating student organization leaders.

Accessibility

A system that does not compensate student organization leaders necessarily excludes some students from participating in these roles. Students of low-income backgrounds often find themselves forced to choose between taking on time-consuming leadership positions or working a paid job. Out of necessity, the choice is already made for them.

The Snow Bowl, a selling point for prospective students, depends on its unpaid student ski patrollers to keep the mountain safe. Ski patrollers are compensated for their essential work at mountains around the world, so why does the college use students' unpaid labor for a grueling, high-stakes and time-consuming job that requires compensation nearly everywhere else? It's hard not to conclude that this is because interest in patrol is high enough that it's possible to maintain a staff without providing a monetary incentive for doing the work. But who is then excluded from participating because they cannot afford to spend unpaid hours on the slopes? What's more, in order to become a Snow Bowl patroller, students have to pay out of pocket for the training certification course. At minimum, this course should be covered by the college so that every interested student can participate regardless of their financial status. Other organizations that put students directly in charge of the safety of their peers, like the Middlebury Mountain Club, require training, leadership and on-call emergency contacts to handle situations that would otherwise be the responsibility of paid staff.

Services to the college

Many organizations provide services to the college community that would otherwise have to be done by paid college employees. For example, MCAB shoulders the burden of planning, organizing and running student events on behalf of the college — and it is entirely student-run.

Yet MCAB often has trouble maintaining student involvement and attracting new members to the organization because of the intense nature of the work. This is not surprising, as the prospect of convincing students to sacrifice their little free time to take on an extracurricular the equivalent of a professional job in terms of the nature of the work and stress is a big ask.

Organizations and the college's DEI goals

It's not only student organizations that exist on the line between extracurriculars and work that deserve compensation. Affinity and cultural groups often become support systems for the underrepresented students they serve. It can be emotionally taxing for leaders to create this space and work to uplift and magnify the voices of students in these communities, all in addition to more universal club leader responsibilities — hosting events, planning meetings and working to ensure the future of their organization.

The college points to such organizations, along with recent increases in the diversity of incoming classes, as evidence of their commitment to equity and inclusivity. This can leave students feeling as though they are being treated as unknowing ambassadors for Middlebury's DEI goals. The college is talking out of both sides of its mouth: emphasizing the value of diversity to donors and prospective students, yet failing to monetarily recognize the labor those students do for the community. Is it really ethical to showcase students' unpaid labor as a DEI marketing tool?

Regular operations

Handling the day-to-day operations of any student organization can be a lot of work. Responsibilities extend beyond facilitating a positive organization environment, and oftentimes require the same time and energy as a paid campus job. Many student organization leaders go through onboarding processes similar to paying jobs. They provide recreation opportunities — sometimes even providing free PE credit options for other students — and help develop community on a small campus in the middle of Vermont that could otherwise feel isolating. Not only do student leaders have to shoulder the litany of college regulations that come with running a club, they also sometimes find themselves responsible for paying certain expenses out of pocket.

Unexpected complications are not the exception but the rule when it comes to leading any student organization. When student organization leaders run into these challenges, sometimes they have no other option but to drop what they are doing and deal with that problem right away. In the case of The Campus, for example, this sometimes means missing class, putting off homework or sacrificing sleep to ensure that the paper comes out each week. And as faculty and staff made massive adjustments during the Covid-19 pandemic, so too were student leaders expected to reimagine and redesign student life for a socially-distanced campus.

Even the student organizations that do not intentionally focus on planning events or providing services for the whole college community still provide a vital service to the college. Every club is a potential incentive for prospective students to attend Middlebury. Every club is another opportunity for current students to enrich their experiences, make new friends or do something they care about. Every club makes Middlebury a better place to go to school.

Solutions

It's clear that student organizations are a valuable asset to the college community. And it's clear that, despite Middlebury's stated goals to promote "full participation" across communities at the college, some students have to choose between a paid job and unpaid work as an organization leader. So this raises the question, why aren't student organization leaders compensated for their service to the Middlebury community?

We won't pretend that we have all the answers — we know that developing an equitable, feasible and sustainable system for compensating organization leaders will take time. But we do feel that there are stop-gap measures that the college could implement in the near-term.

Establishing a pool of money to which students can apply if they feel that compensation would make or break their ability to take on an organization leadership role could significantly increase the accessibility of these roles for students from low-income backgrounds. This could even look like expanding and waiving certain requirements for similar, already established resources, like the Opportunity Grant fund.

Creating a need-based, rather than hierarchical, system for compensating organization leaders would also help improve accessibility without necessarily requiring that the college find the funds to pay every student organization leader. This could mean working with Student Activities and other relevant offices to establish student-organization roles that count towards Federal Work Study hours.

If the college is committed to finding a way to create a more comprehensive compensation system for organization leaders in the long-term, we feel that it is vital that they solicit student input and take this into account as they move towards that goal. We know we, as a Board, don't have the information to propose a plan of gradual roll-out for leadership compensation or to rank leadership positions across organizations according to priority for receiving pay. If the college determines that it is only financially feasible and sustainable to pay certain student leadership positions, they should not try to design this system without broad student feedback and support.

As far as securing funds, we call on those who are financially capable to consider in what ways they could use their resources to support the college's goal of "full participation." As things stand, that is not the reality we are living and learning in.

Whatever solution the college lands on, it is clear that student organization leaders are overburdened, underappreciated and, sometimes, taking on work similar to that of a professional workplace. The current system, or lack thereof, inherently privileges students that can afford the luxury of taking on these unpaid roles over others. For this reason, creating a system to compensate the students who hold these positions is necessary to create a truly inclusive Middlebury.

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An ode to going to school with your older brother

Op-Ed

Ginger Hanlon *is a member of the class of 2026.5*

"I'm definitely not going to Middlebury — that's Joe's school." I made this bold claim over a year ago as I began applying to colleges. My brother and I have always been close, but I was so opposed to going to a tiny school with him that I didn't want to look any further into Middlebury. I had decided that my engagement with the college would remain limited to the stories I had heard from him. In mid-November, however, my parents convinced me to tour campus. It was the most unseasonably warm and beautiful day, and after getting one look at the campus full of life, I immediately had to eat my words.

After much convincing from him about the wonders of taking a gap semester, the endless internship opportunities, close-knit communities and personal connections with professors, I decided Middlebury was where I should be.

My brother and his friends walked me around campus, highlighting only the most stunning of study spots, picnic places and classrooms. I decided I did, in fact, want to come to Middlebury, so when I got accepted in late March, I was thrilled — although still a bit hesitant about the commitment of attending school with my older brother. After much convincing from him about the wonders of taking a gap semester, the endless internship opportunities, close-knit communities and personal connections with professors, I decided Middlebury was where I should be.

Jump forward almost an entire year: I'm attempting to park and unload my ridiculous amount of trinkets for my tiny triple dorm room. The chaos of the day that I had been dreaming about for ages was finally here, and I was even less organized than I anticipated. I can't say that my brother was that helpful in the actual process of physically moving in, but he did serve the equally, if not more important, role of making fun of our parents — who desperately needed to drive home at this point. I was trying not to be overwhelmed by the chaos of it all.

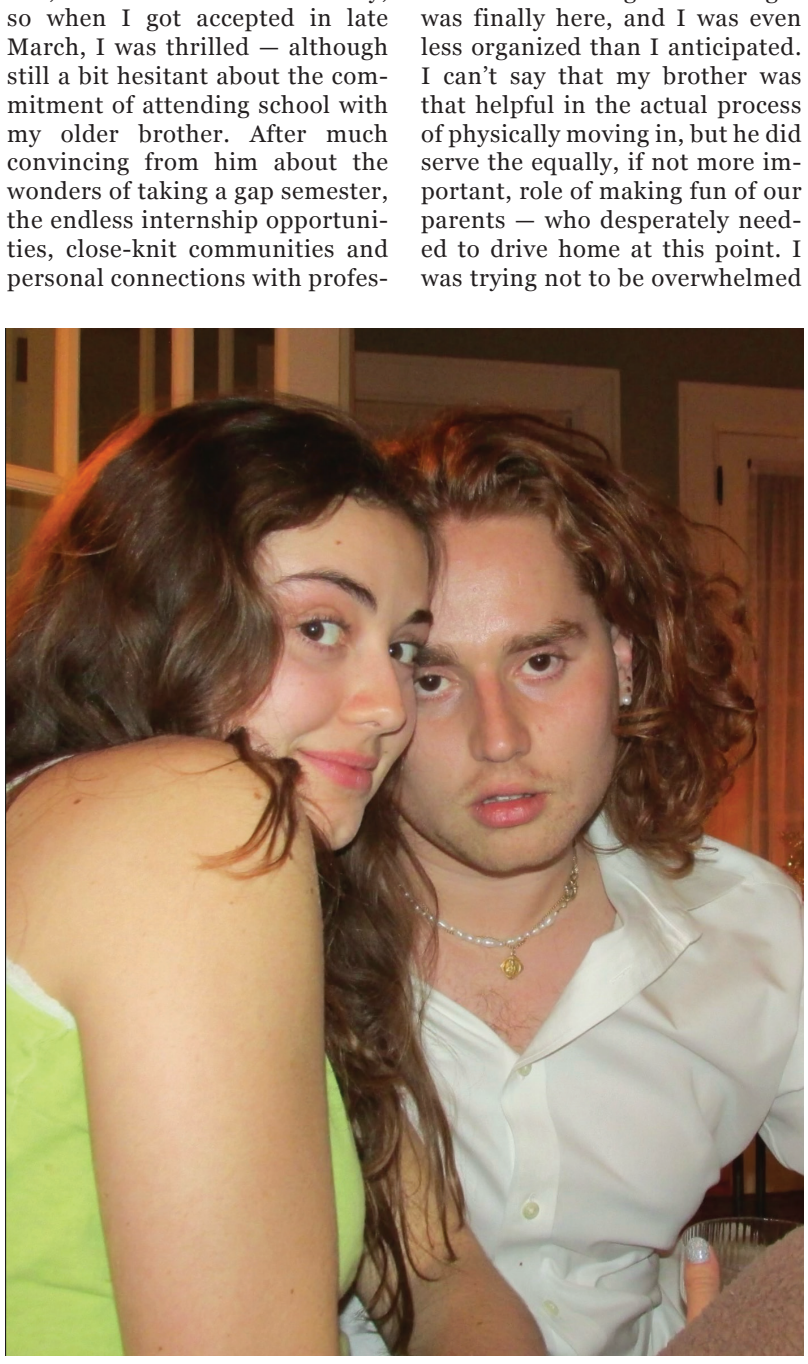


Photo courtesy of Ginger Hanlon.

I was experiencing feelings of loneliness, as I expected, but I also had more unexpected feelings of comfort, which came from being surrounded by my brother and his iconic friends whom I love and

After each day of orientation, I was wiped out from the most social interaction I had experienced in months. I felt like I was making some friends, but I was really on edge about it all. It is nerve wracking coming into a school with pre-set social dynamics in the middle of winter. I was experiencing feelings of loneliness, as I expected, but I also had more unexpected feelings of comfort, which came from being surrounded by my brother and his iconic friends whom I love and look up to. As orientation started to come to an end and I started to have to think about class registration and real school, I was so anxious — I hadn't used my brain in a school setting in months, and I had no clue how to get into the classes I wanted — but, once again, my brother was right there to help guide me. Even though he made fun of me for my baby Feb anxieties, he was still there to walk me through all the questions I had. I actually even started to annoy myself by constantly referring back to the advice my older brother gave to me when talking to my fellow Febs.

As the conversations among my classmates started to shift away from the classic "what did you do with your gap semester" and I could finally start to remember their hometowns, I began to truly fall in love with this special community of passionate and interesting people. My classes picked up speed from the very beginning, but all of my fears of not being in school for months melted away as I tried to learn simply for learning's sake. Even though I was scared and anxious to join a close-knit campus, I've learned these first few weeks how lovely people are, and have realized it's probably going to be okay if we all take care of each other.

This first real weekend of college, the 100th annual Middlebury Winter Carnival, was filled with introductions of my newfound friends to my brother mixed with calls from him about events and endless "this is my baby Feb sister" introductions.

I love getting to have so many older friends and mentors built into my life.

Being in a social setting with my big brother was an experience I had been thinking about since I first submitted my application to Middlebury, but it was more fun than I ever could have imagined. I love getting to have so many older friends and mentors built into my life. Being a Feb is fabulous because of the way the time out of the classroom allowed me to mature, take time to find the things I care about and get excited to learn again. And frankly, going to school with my brother has been wonderful as well... for now at least.

How to navigate college when you have baggage

Op-Ed

Rach Peck *is a member of the class of 2025.*

The start of the semester is always an incredibly busy time in all realms of college life. In particular, I find the social scene to be especially hectic as I meet new people through classes and other activities. In this vein, the first few days of this semester were the busiest I've experienced so far. It felt like every time I went to the dining hall I'd spend more time running around saying hi to people than I would spend eating the meal itself.

On one of the first days of the semester, I was at my third pit stop on my journey to get a fork and bring it back to my booth when I did something bizarre. I was chatting with a friend who'd returned from abroad when a guy came up behind me to sit with the friend in question. Now, as is the case with a lot of folks, I'd seen this guy around campus regularly, but we'd never spoken, and I knew nothing about him. In the moment, I was overstimulated, and his presence was an obstacle between me and getting back to the quiet of my booth. Or, at least, that's the only explanation I have for what followed.

Instead of introducing myself, I instead came up with an idea: what if the two of us actively chose not to know each other? To not even know each other's names? To live in an intentional sphere of anonymity, as the rest of the world does outside of small, tight-knit communities like Middlebury? For the remainder of our mutual college experience, we could have one fewer person to interact with, one fewer potential pit stop in a dining hall.

Through the empathy of others, I have gained the confidence to expect that if I lower my walls to reveal my natural complexity, people will respond in kind.

So we shook on it and agreed that beyond the knowledge of lacking knowledge, we'd share nothing more in common.

As cliche as it is to say, hindsight truly is 2020. Though at the time, this strategy of intentional anonymity felt like a convenient solution, it actually was more of a band aid suppressing an ongoing conflict I have with myself when it comes to navigating new and developing relationships. As is the nature of bandaids, while it offered temporary relief, the only way to actually solve the problem was to deal with what was underneath. But why was this option appealing to me in the first place?

Because, to be honest, I'm exhausted. Coming from an underprivileged background is difficult wherever you are, but this exhaustion is heightened in a privileged community like Middlebury. In every new relationship that I forge, I carry a can of worms with a lid that will not go back on once it comes off, and in every relationship, it's only a matter of time before I have to decide if that lid should come off or stay on. Of course, this isn't a literal can of worms: the worms are the part of our histories that are personal and meaningful to us. Maybe it's our mental health, or family background, or traumas that stick with us. Sharing these parts of ourselves means taking a developing relationship to a deeper level that requires trust and time.

Although I spent my first year trying to cultivate as many of these deep friendships as possible, by my fourth semester, I decided that my non-friend and I would be fine if we never got to know each other. Fourth-semester-me is exhausted and already socially fulfilled as it is.

I find that most people I interact with here tend to fall on either side of a fence. On one side are the people that never see the worms, folks who for one reason or another I don't feel like sharing those parts of me with and as such are perpetually kept at a distance because there's only so close you can be with someone who doesn't know much about what has made you who you are. On the other side of the fence are the people who have seen the worms, whether it be a few of them or the whole can, and have chosen to stay in my life anyway. Through the empathy of others, I have gained the confidence to expect that if I lower my walls to reveal my natural complexity, people will respond in kind.

In some ways, we all soften the edges of our personal realities to fit certain molds. This censoring is ultimately easier for others to understand and relate to, and also for ourselves to contend with.

In some ways, we all soften the edges of our personal realities to fit certain molds. This censoring is ultimately easier for others to understand and relate to, and also for ourselves to contend with.

Last year, it got to a point where I became more comfortable with opening my can more often. I realized that leaning into discomfort was less exhausting than constantly avoiding sharing the truth. In sharing these worms with my friends, we've become closer. The walls I put up have started to come down, and things feel easier. I feel more at ease and able to be myself.

Going forward, when meeting new people, I want to empower myself to take that first step out of my comfort zone. Figuring out how far to step outside of that comfort zone is no easy task. There have been many instances where I've overshared to the point of discomfort. There have also been times when I've felt like a puzzle piece that simply will not fit no matter how hard I try. But when I can reach that balance, beautiful things happen. Empathy blooms, and those meaningful deep connections we hope to get out of our college days come to life.

Oh, and that strategy of intentional anonymity? It failed spectacularly. This campus is too small for those kinds of things to work: the poor bloke is in my Creative Writing class. And for what it's worth, I'm glad it didn't work out. I've learned that there's value in so many of the connections I've made here at Middlebury — whether or not that can of worms is opened. If I could go back to that moment, I'd tell myself that instead of running away from the possibility of a new connection, I should lean into it. Take a risk, because so many of those steps I've taken out of my comfort zone have been for the better. Up until recently, in those moments when I was feeling things that were too heavy or my anxiety was spiking, I'd always struggle to think of a friend I felt comfortable reaching out to for support. The fear of burdening someone else was just too much. But by being more open and frank about my experiences and creating a sense of shared understanding and empathy with the people around me, I've finally found that I can reach out to people in those hard moments.

Sharing these parts of ourselves means taking a developing relationship to a deeper level that requires trust and time.

Our worms — our baggage — can be heavy. In sharing it with others, in taking that risk, we can carry it together.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: ON DIVINE LOVE AND THE BOOK AS AN ARTIFACT

By TULIP LARSON
Arts & Culture Editor

Enveloped in deep maroon velvet, with ornate embroidery weaving floral patterns across the cover, spine and back, "Les Spirituelles Délices de L' me Pénitente en L'Amour Divin" is a pleasure to look at. This stunning book was published in Paris in 1608, and Middlebury received it as an anonymous gift in 1976. The book is a collection of Christian prayers and ordinances that famous poet and playwright Nicolas de Montreux, the author, considered particularly beautiful and moving.

While last week's "From the Archives" column highlighted commercial expressions of love through vintage Valentine's cards, this book focuses on another genre of love –– divine love. The book's preface, an epistle written by de Montreux to Claude du Bellay of Notre Dame de Savigny, sets the tone for what follows in the rest of the book: advice on how to appeal to the divine and how to garner God's love and affection. De Montreux's epistle drips with effusive prose that relentlessly praises du Bellay's sage religious insights and positions de Montreux as du Bellay's lowly worshiper, in constant awe of his "Athena-like" wisdom.

Similar in content to countless other publications of the time, what makes "Les Spirituelles Délices de L' me" particularly interesting is the window into history that the tiny tome provides. Even before cracking open the book, clues abound. The fanciful velvet cover hints that whoever owned the book was quite wealthy. During the 17th century, books were usually sold without covers; depending on the owner's financial situation, they could choose to add a number of personalizations to their new book. This particular cover, with its extravagant purple velvet and intricate embroidered heart, implies that the book was incredibly important to its owner. The heart suggests that perhaps it was a gift to a lover, a family member or a close friend. The initials DMF can be found on the back of the cover, another mystery amplifying the book's allure.

While many may lament this book's poor condition, the lack of structural integrity provides opportunities to view the book in a new way. The spine, having completely detached from the book, exposes scrap paper that the bookmaker used when making "Les Spirituelles Délices de L' me." Because paper was at a premium during this time, it was commonplace for bookmakers to use bits of used paper that were lying around when making new books. Although it is difficult to decipher any specific words, the scrap from the spine contains elegant cursive handwriting, probably the bookmaker's. Similar to the spine, the velvet on the back cover has detached completely from the wood below. This detachment allows for the backside of the detailed embroidery to be seen, displaying every individual stitch. Seeing the painstaking work that went into creating such a gorgeous cover changes one's perception of the book. Investigating "Les Spirituelles Délices de L' me" in this way transforms it from merely a book into a historical artifact, one that can tell volumes without ever being read.

Courtesy of Middlebury Special Collections

Although it is difficult to decipher any specific words, the scrap from the spine contains elegant cursive handwriting, probably the bookmaker's.

REEL CRITIC: "THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE"

By JACK TORPEY
Arts & Culture Editor

Courtesy photo

One of the many things that makes "The Earth Is Blue as an Orange" a great documentary is how it sincerely observes the reality of its subjects.

The Axinn 232 screening room was nearly full on the frigid night of Feb. 24 as Middlebury students and community members packed inside to watch "The Earth Is Blue as an Orange," a 2020 Sundance-award-winning documentary about a Ukrainian mother and her children trying to live a normal life amidst the devastation of the Russo-Ukrainian War. Introducing the screening were students Mariia Dzholos '24 and Kseniia Lebid '26, both citizens of Ukraine who organized the event by coordinating with director Iryna Tsilyk and a producer to secure the rights to screen their film. The hosts began the night by emphasizing the screening as a commemoration of the one-year anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Speaking with grace, Dzholos and Lebid implored the audience to recognize the tragedy being endured by their country for what it is — war — and to not accept the diminishing label of "conflict" that has shaped the conceptions of many foreign observers. Such an eloquent appeal for earnest consideration of the plight of the Ukrainian people was followed by the film. A beautiful documentary about carrying on in the face of overwhelming hardship and danger, "The Earth Is Blue as an Orange" gently observes the daily lives of a family of filmmakers in Ukraine's embattled Donbas region, granting Western audiences a lens of compassion and fellowship through which to see themselves in their Ukrainian neighbors.

The film takes place in 2014 shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukrainian-held Crimea. This act of military aggression officially began the war that severely escalated in early 2022 with Russia's invasion of mainland Ukraine. In the town of Krasnohorivka on the front lines of eastern Ukraine, single mother Anna Trofymchuk-Gladky spends her days protecting her four children from the shelling and gunfire of the skirmishes being fought outside her home. She rushes them into their cellar to shelter them from artillery, huddles them in their hallway to shield them from shrapnel and keeps them away from windows out of the fear they will be shot. For all the daily traumas that Anna and her children suffer, however, it is how the family strives for normalcy and happiness that Tsilyk makes the focus of her documentary. With her older daughters as cinematographers and her young sons as actors, Anna directs a family film crew as a way of giving her children a haven from the stresses of the war. Tsilyk's film follows the Trofymchuk-Gladky family as they shoot a homemade film about their experience living through the war's outbreak, a process of coping through creativity that unites Anna and her children against the constant anxiety of wartime.

One of the many things that makes "The Earth Is Blue as an Orange" a great documentary is how it sincerely observes the reality of its subjects without ever feeling like the filmmaker has directed or manipulated them in any way. There was certainly coordination and planning between Tsilyk and the Trofymchuk-Gladkys during the filmmaking process, but the resulting film has such a naturalistic feel to it that it seems like the director managed to capture months in the lives of this family without them ever knowing she was there. Whether Anna is celebrating her birthday or shooting interviews of her children for their film, Tsilyk's sensitive approach to documenting the family's affairs creates the impression of being right in the room with them.

The director's style benefits "The Earth Is Blue as an Orange" most during the scenes centered on Anna's oldest daughter, Myroslava, who transitions to college over the course of the film. It is in presenting her story, tracking her steps from high school graduation to move-in day to coming home for the holidays, that the film makes its most powerful outreach for compassion from foreign audiences. Viewers who have themselves gone through the intimidating yet exciting process of leaving home and beginning college will recognize a bit of themselves in this young woman, but what they will also see are military vehicles in the background of her graduation photos and destroyed roads strewn with rubble and glass. The sensation of identification mixed with shock produced by these images from Myroslava's storyline makes it the most compelling element of the film, one that wields the power of shared, universal experience to render it impossible for audiences to emotionally distance themselves from the people of Ukraine.

It was clear that Tsilyk's humanizing portrait of the Trofymchuk-Gladky family did its job in Axinn 232. When the film ended, the Middlebury audience sat in silent reflection upon the story of resilience and familial love they had just been told, finally sending up applause after Dzholos and Lesbid thanked them for coming and concluded the screening. Now, at the very least, the next time those who watched "The Earth Is Blue as an Orange" read a headline about the war in Ukraine, they will think beyond the facts and figures and remember the family in Krasnohorivka that is making movies and waiting for peace.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE MISSIONARIES ON CAMPUS

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI, JOSHUA GLUCKSMAN, LIAM MORRIS & RACH PECK
Opinions Editor & Contributing Writers

Sofia Afsar-Keshmiri/The middlebury campus

The authors decided to ask the new missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in town if they wanted to sit down with us and talk about their lives.

Who are these three well-dressed young gentlemen who I have seen standing outside Proctor Dining Hall for the last few weeks, handing out pamphlets and talking to Middlebury students? Well, the four of us were asking the same questions during the last week of J-Term over lunch. So, we decided to ask the new missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in town if they wanted to sit down with us and talk about their lives. What follows are the highlights from an hour-long interview in which we — Liam Morris '26, Rach Peck '25, Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri '24 and Joshua Glucksman '25 — asked them — Isaac Tippett, Isaac Quick and Parker Taylor — about their lives, aspirations and stories.

Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri: Can you tell me your names and where you guys are originally from?

IT: My name is Elder Tippett, or Isaac Tippett, and I'm from Sandy, Ore.
IQ: My name is Elder Quick, or Isaac Quick, and I'm from Salt Lake City, Utah.
PT: My name is Elder Taylor, or Parker Taylor, and I'm from Heber City, Utah.

SAK: Where are you guys staying?
IT: We have an apartment that the church helps pay for in downtown Middlebury.

SAK: How did you guys find yourselves in Middlebury, Vt.?

IT: As missionaries, we are called to serve in a particular part of the world. In our case, it's New England. We move around a lot, but right now we're in Middlebury.
IQ: We never know how long we are going to stay. It could be six weeks or six months.

SAK: You guys have been on the Middlebury campus a lot. Are you going to other places? Are you focusing on Middlebury for a reason?

IQ: We go wherever we can find people to talk to. This is a great way to meet a lot of people from a lot of different places and cultures to hopefully uplift faith and help other people's relationships with Christ.

SAK: Did you guys have to get permission from Middlebury College to be here?

IQ: I'm not sure. Nobody has kicked us out, never said anything to us. I mean, we've definitely talked to faculty just like saying, "Hey, how's it going," and stuff.

SAK: How old are you guys?

IT: 20.
IQ: 20.
PT: 22.

SAK: What are your future plans after the two years of missionary work?

IT: I was thinking about going to trade school to become an electrician.
IQ: I have plans to go to Utah State after I finish my mission. And then I want to study film or go into marketing.
PT: I actually have no idea. We'll figure that out in two years.

SAK: [You said] the Gospels helped you a lot, do you guys mind speaking a little bit to how specifically it has helped you?

PT: I have a little bit of a different story. I left the church for a while, and my parents wanted me to grow up very religious, and I left for a long time and got really into drugs, the kind of life that would make someone homeless for the rest of their life, pretty much. I was leading down this really dark path, and then decided, I wanted to kind of seek out, what I thought of spirituality, and just kind of kept seeking, what truth, like different truths in life, and came to the conclusion that I needed to read the Book of Mormon, which is another testament of Jesus Christ and goes along with the Bible, and determine for myself if it was true or not. And I read it and asked God to know if it was true. And I was blessed with the opportunity to know that book is true.

Joshua Glucksman: Because you're on a college campus, we're all the same age. I'm wondering if you think it's easier or harder to relate to people who live such a different life, such a secular life?

IQ: I think we like to be around people around our age and hear how different our life stories are. We all come from different backgrounds. Middlebury's campus is very diverse — different cultures, different places. It's fun to be able to relate to people, even in the small things.

JG: From the people you've talked to in the past few weeks, are you sensing that there's a crisis of meaning and people are uniquely right now looking for something bigger than themselves?

IQ: I think, especially at this age, early 20s, a lot of people are searching for meaning in life, what their goals are, their future. I think that's something a lot of people are trying to figure out. Obviously, maybe that doesn't mean you're not happy. I think a lot of people find joy and find excitement through that kind of mystery of the future. But I think something that we have to offer is a kind of answer to those questions. One thing our church has a strong stance on is why we're here and where we're going and where we came from. When people are able to find answers to those questions that kind of fills their soul and brings them peace.

Rach Peck: My first introduction to the LDS church was the musical "The Book of Mormon." I'm wondering what misconceptions you've seen in that?

PT: The people that made the Book of Mormon musical, one of them was actually a member of the church. The church puts Mormon missionaries outside of the theaters, and as people were coming out, they thought they were like actors, right? But they're just missionaries from the church that are like, "here's the actual message." Obviously it's a comedy, and we don't really have any hatred towards those people; they're just trying to make a musical.

Liam Morris: Do you have any criticisms? Not necessarily even of the Book of Mormon, but rather the LDS Church, or the institution of it?
PT: There's a lot of people that have problems with the church, because the church has a lot of money. People don't really like organizations with a lot of money, right? Recently, the church came out with numbers about how they've been using this money, like giving it to different charities, organizations to donate billions of dollars to these different charities and different countries that need help with refugee programs. A lot of people step away from the church, because of the ways that it's being led. And one of the things that I've really had to fall back on is that God uses imperfect people to bring about his perfect purposes. So a lot of the time, there's going to be things that we don't agree with, there's gonna be people in the church that are jerks, but you have to realize that people aren't perfect, but God's purposes are perfect.

SAK: Are there any ways that you guys wish that the church would modernize?

IQ: The Law of Moses was in place when Moses was a prophet. And then when Jesus came, he got rid of the Law of Moses and instituted his gospel. We believe that we have that same gospel. And there is continued revelation that we get from modern day prophets. There are things like the Ten Commandments that will not be changed, things that God has put in place, but there's things that can be policies and procedures that can be updated with the modern day time. I've actually tried to study quite a few religions, and one of the most or the most modern, updated religions I think I've found is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

RP: What final message do you want for all Middlebury College students to hear from you?

IT: We teach people about how we can all return to live with our families for eternity and have peace and happiness and just the joy and community that comes from following Jesus Christ and trying to be the best people we can be in just continuing to learn and grow with each other. I think it's something that everybody's looking for. And I think it's something you can find within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
PT: The thing that benefited me and the worst part of my life was reading the Book of Mormon and talking with missionaries. So I think just seeking us out, we would love to give you a copy of the Book of Mormon. Just read it and pray to know if it's true.
IQ: It's important to know that God loves you, no matter what. He's your loving heavenly father. We, as members of the Church, believe that we're all sons and daughters of God, and that we were sent here to be tested to learn and grow. Anyone and everyone, whatever they need, are going to need a friend, right?

IT STARTS WITH THE EGG –

By LUCIA SNYDERMAN
Contributing Writer

A small white thing grows
If cold does not claim

Mother Penguin walks seventy miles to sea
& Father awaits her return
Uncertain and starving across this wondrous white
They trust and remember

Loss is when elephants pause large gray feet
Bow long gray trunks to mourn
Bodies they knew when small
Playing, snorting the same mud
Now dried into a light and fickle dust

Loss is when whales refuse to give
Their once-calf's body to cooler
Depths, but they carry on,
Expending energy to mourn
Another day

We listen to voicemails of those we loved
Straining to remember key and pitch

We put on peacoats and scarves
Our grandfathers and grandmothers gave us
Feel them in seam and stitch

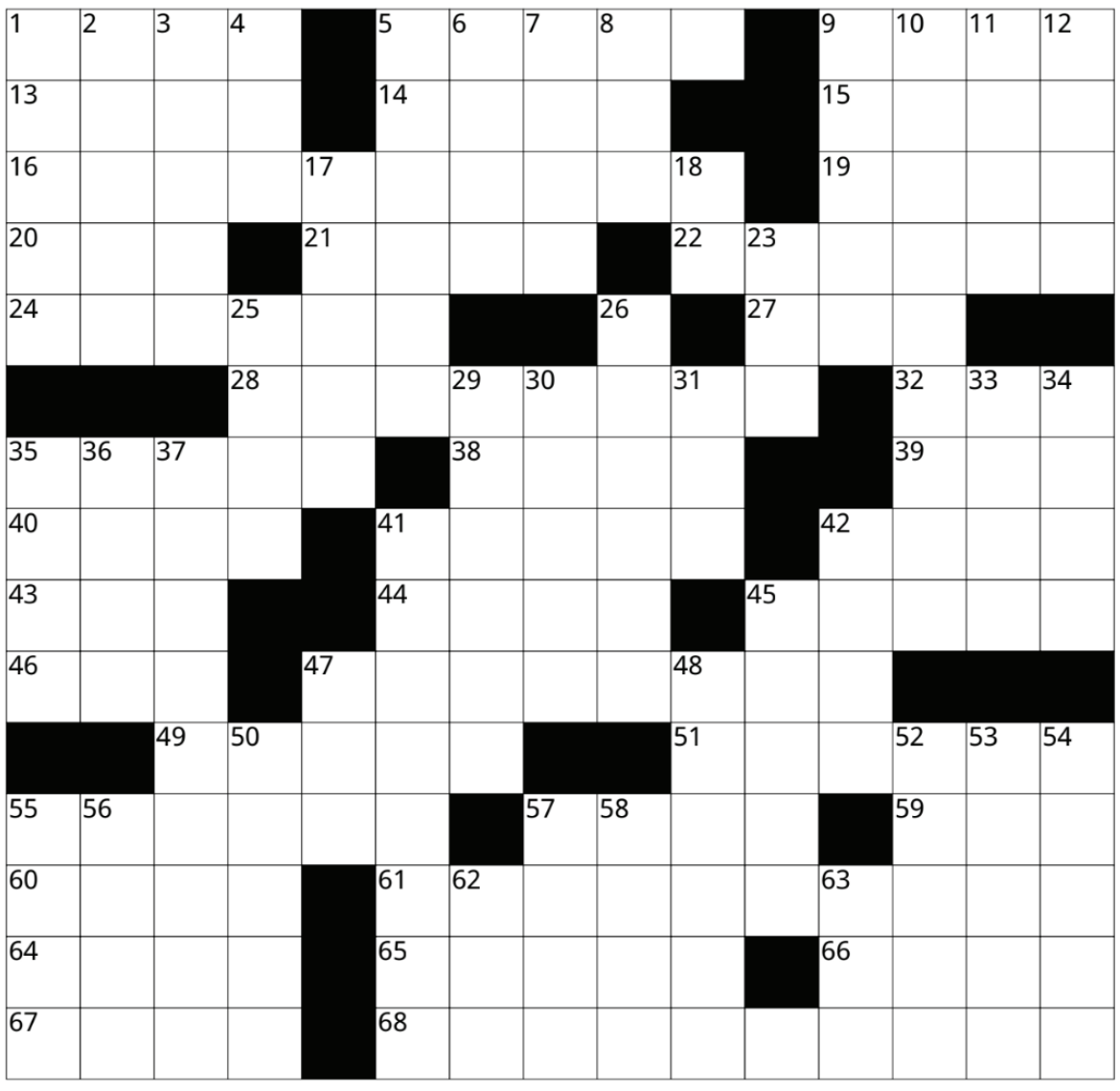
We ask for signs of our children gone before us,
Find meaning in heat waves
& Marmots crossing backyards

We huddle together – an ancient
Instinct – to be warm, to be close,
To know the shape of Love

Lucia Snyderman's "It Starts With The Egg-" is a part of an effort by the Arts & Culture section to feature more student art, both in the form of small drawings and different kinds of writing pieces. The Middlebury Arts Department is full of immense talent, and students have very few regular (or at least weekly) opportunities to showcase what they're working on. "It Starts With The Egg-," thus continues what will hopefully be the regular featuring of students' projects in The Campus.

SPRING-ISH THEMED CROSSWORD

By WILLIAM REED
Layout Editor



Across

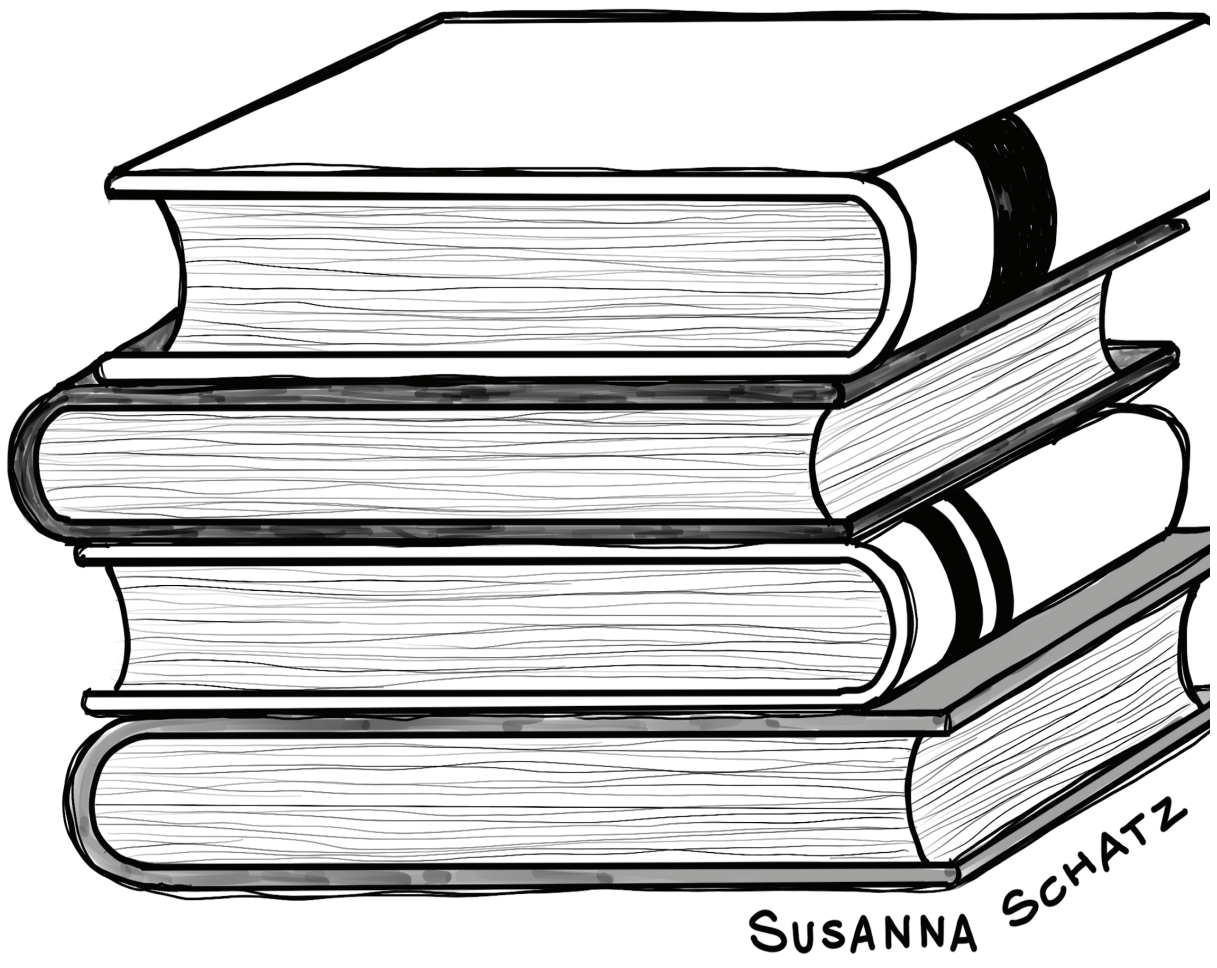
1 Cincinnati team
5 *Sign of spring
9 Baldwin or Guinness
13 Nobelist Wiesel
14 "Personally ..."
15 Seat of Allen County, Kansas
16 Gentle quality and Parquet Courts song title
19 Bank deposit?
20 ___ Zion Church
21 Bog fuel
22 Seasonal mall employees
24 *Sign of winter
27 "Riddle-me- ..."
28 "Sounds like a plan!"
32 Dorm VIPs
35 Some McFlurry ingredients
38 Lids for bottles
39 Pocatello sch.
40 Written supply orders, briefly
41 Walk in step, or relating to all clues with a *
42 Together, in France
43 "The Simpsons" storekeeper
44 Penne ___ vodka
45 Some Air Force NCOs
46 "___ know you?"
47 *Slanged nickname for a holiday this month
49 Nostril part (this is vague and I'm sorry in advance)
51 *Time for a break
55 Ancient markets
57 "... sting like ___"
59 "___ Haw"
60 Old German duchy name
61 Washington post?
64 Years and years
65 Alleviates
66 Hacienda room
67 Hatchling's home
68 Solutions for flats

Down

1 Open again, as a keg
2 Fragrant resin
3 Enjoys a fine meal
4 But, to Brutus
5 Still, stationary
6 Nickname for the sickness that caused that pandemic...
7 "How ___ Your Mother"
8 Some MIT grads
9 River to the Oise
10 Hanging around
11 Jazzy Fitzgerald
12 Tigers and tabbies
17 Fencing swords
18 Initials of SNL cast member who also voice acted in "Wreck it Ralph"
23 Singer Garfunkel
25 Synonym to "near" but without the last letter "e"
26 Not Top Dog, but Top ___ (likes to purr and sulk and stuff)
29 The skin covering the head, excluding the face.
30 Brace-faced girl in "Finding Nemo"
31 Sort of: suffix
33 "___ Was" by Harry S.
34 Takes to court
35 Toward the mouth
36 Seized vehicle
37 *Season openers?
41 MoMA's "The Red Studio" and "Dance"
42 Red letters?
45 Herman Melville's first book
47 Madrid Mrs.
48 Dangerous African fly
50 "Give it ___!"
52 "Word on the street is ..."
53 Author Zora ___ Hurston
55 Slippery ___ eel
56 Revolutionary War general Thomas ___
57 Looped handle
58 Boxer Max
62 "The Raven" monogram
63 Fed. stipend

NICHE READS: NOVELS FOR GENDER STUDIES MAJORS

By SYLVIE SHURE
Opinions Editor



If you struggle to find time for fun reading, this is the spot for you. Niche Reads recommends novels that relate to academic (or other) interests so you can explore a new book while still feeling productive. Check back each week for more cool books!

Are you interested in gender studies or the effects of inflexible gender norms? Then you're in the right place. These three books place gender on the forefront, taking different approaches to expose the consequences of sexism for people of all genders. They all offer interesting historical perspectives, from Victorian feminism to the gender norms of Glasgow in the 1980s.

"The Odd Women" by George Gissing

This often-overlooked Victorian novel follows the lives of five "odd women"— unmarried and struggling to support themselves with limited financial opportunities. As the women try to develop career skills, they also must navigate the complex and threatening world of romantic advances from men.

When writing "The Odd Women," Gissing took inspiration from his two unmarried sisters, writing his protagonists with uncanny compassion and depth. Rather than focusing on the glamorous side of Victorian society that seems to be the dominant surviving narrative in media culture today, this novel skillfully and honestly explores the lives of average people. As such, it is easier to connect with than other novels from the time period that you may have read.

Beyond the fascinating insights into 19th-century feminism, the plot itself is scintillating and at times shocking. This is a novel that will stick with you, deftly combining lighthearted romance and strong female characters with haunting descriptions of the realities that they faced.

You should read this book if you like Victorian literature, if you're drawn to stories that focus on average people or if you are looking for a book with many twists and turns.

"Inland" by Téa Obreht

In the Arizona territory in 1893, tormented by drought, the men in Nora's family have vanished. Her husband, in search of water, has been gone for weeks, while her two older sons have mysteriously disappeared. Left to tend to her home and younger son alone, she faces threats from the environment, her community and the monster her son claims is roaming the land. At the same time, an outlaw named Lurie travels through the countryside, plagued by ghosts and their all-consuming "wants."

In "Inland," Obreht masterfully interweaves two seemingly unconnected stories, but the beating heart of the novel is Nora, a hardened frontier woman. Following her over a perilous few days, the novel examines themes of motherhood, loss and sacrifice.

With its beautiful prose and fascinating setting, "Inland" explores the life of a woman unsupported by men. The whole novel is underscored by the ominous depletion of Nora's water supply, a constant reminder of the danger posed by the people and the land surrounding her. This novel is understated and elegant, with an expertly crafted and unpredictable story.

You should read this book if you like novels that center around a strong sense of place, if you are interested in historical fiction or if you are drawn to lyrical prose.

"Shuggie Bain" by Douglas Stuart

The only book on this list that features a male protagonist, "Shuggie Bain" is the story of a young boy's coming-of-age in 1980s Glasgow. Raised in poverty by his mother, Agnes, a beautiful but unstable woman, Shuggie grapples with his sexuality while Agnes, confronted with her own fading glamor, sinks into alcoholism.

Shuggie and Agnes's relationship is the centerpiece of the novel, and it is both tender and destructive. However, sexuality is also a major theme, along with Shuggie's inability to be a "normal boy." This heartbreaking story shows the fallout of a sweet, sensitive boy growing up in a society with rigid expectations and the failures of the adults in his life to help him.

Like "Inland," "Shuggie Bain" is remarkable for its setting: a vivid account of public housing in Glasgow, informed by Stuart's own childhood.

You should read this book if you're looking for a bildungsroman, if you're interested in epic character studies or if you don't mind a tearjerker.

CHARLOTTE MARKS '23.5 EARNS NFHCA DIII NATIONAL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

By RYAN HEINZERLING
Sports Editor

The National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) awarded Charlotte Marks '23.5 the Division III National Scholar Award. The NFHCA created the award in 2014 to honor the All-American with the highest cumulative GPA through the first semester of the academic year. Marks, with her 3.97 GPA and molecular biology and biochemistry major, is the first Middlebury athlete to win the prize.

Marks is no stranger to success at Middlebury. As a defender on the field hockey team, Marks has been integral to the program's dominance as they won their fifth consecutive national title this fall. She's been named to the NFHCA National Academic Team twice, made it onto the NFHCA First-Team All-Region the past two seasons, is a three-time NESCAC All-Academic and was a part of the All NESCAC Second-Team this past season.

"Coach DeLorenzo always emphasizes that 'student' comes first in 'student-athlete' and supports us in all of our academic endeavors," Marks said. "Despite the busy schedule and traveling during the fall season, I have always been one for which athletics helps my academic performance."

On the field, she helped defend a 0.54 average goals against for Middlebury along with 13 shutouts this past season. Except for the team's goalkeeper, nobody played more than her 1,215 minutes on the field.

In addition to her time on the field hockey team, Marks works at the Middlebury Snow Bowl as a member of Ski Patrol in the winter. She's on the pre-med track and has interned at Porter Medical Center, Tufts Medical Center, Chiamas Inc. and Elucid Bioimaging Inc.

"Another part of our team that I find really special is how much respect our coach gives to our time during the off season. Yes, we still have to train and stay in shape, but she makes sure that we prioritize being involved in activities and clubs outside of field hockey," Marks explained. "At the end of the day, this allows our team to come together and share our outside experiences with each other, which helps build a robust culture. "

Courtesy of Charlotte Marks
Charlotte Marks '23.5 plays in a field hockey game this past season.

PFL Weekly

By BLAISE SIEFER, ELI DIBARI, MARCO FENGLER, CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Podcast Hosts

After last week's snow, it's only fitting that this week's episode kicks off with some nordic ski trivia. Ciara Dale '24 runs us through her two championship wins at track New England's, while Marco gives us the scoop on men's basketball's road to the NCAA tournament. Last week's Panther All-Star, swimmer Riley Griffis '24, talks about setting three Middlebury records and qualifying for nationals. To round off the episode, Eli's Panther All-Star puts the student in student athlete and Captain gives us the rundown on what teams to look out for in the coming weeks.

Courtesy of Caroline Harding

Middlebury spring sports get set to start their seasons

By JACK MCGUIRE, RYAN HEINZERLING & OWEN PARK
Senior Sports Editor & Sports Editor

After a successful spring last season that saw women's lacrosse, baseball, women's track and field and men's tennis all win championships, expectations for Middlebury sports teams are high for this spring. The sports editors for the campus came together to preview each team competing this spring.

Baseball

Head Coach: Mike Leonard

Captains: Andrew Gough '23, Alex Price '23, Alec Ritch '23, Jack Stolper '23, John Collins '23

Athletes to Watch: Zip Malley '24, Chris Borter '24, Sammy Smith '24

Middlebury baseball tore up the NESCAC last season going 10–2 in conference en route to a championship season. That high quality of play earned the Panthers their second NCAA tournament berth in program history. Although Eastern Connecticut University — who went on to become NCAA Champions — knocked them out, the team still managed to break around two dozen records in their prolific 31–14 season. The team's offense towered over the rest of the league as they scored over 100 more runs than the next most effective offense in Tufts and a team on-base plus slugging percentage (OPS) of .975. Middlebury's pitching also looks to continue its success as it struck out more batters than any other NESCAC program and ranked fourth in Earned Run Average (ERA). Defensively, the Panthers look to improve after ranking near the bottom of the league in fielding percentage last year (they made more errors than anyone, but they also converted the most double plays). However, fielding statistics rarely tell the entirety of a team's fielding success. This season, look to Ritch, a two-way player coming off an amazing season at the plate and on the mound. With a lot of strength in the senior and junior class, this is a dangerous team looking to get back into the NCAA tournament.

Key competitions: Wesleyan University (home, April 7), Hamilton College (home, Senior Day, April 15), Amherst College (away, April 29)

Softball

Head Coach: Kelly Bevere '99

Captains: Lizzie Hannafey '23, Tori Papaleo '23, Abby Stanis '23

Athletes to Watch: Megan Fox '24, Jordyn Johnson '23, Abby Santis '23

Middlebury softball reeled off an impressive 20–10 season last year after suffering back-to-back losing seasons prior to 2022. Despite their regular season success, the team fell short in the NESCAC semifinals last year, losing 9–3 to division rival Tufts. Similar to the baseball team, Middlebury's offense carried the team with a league high .345 team batting average. Yet, as newer statistics have shown, the team was unable to use that bat-to-ball skill to score as much as their competitors, ranking fifth in the league in runs scored. On the mound, the Panthers ranked fourth with a 3.02 team ERA, which while excellent in its own right, also paled in comparison to league-leading Tufts' 1.41 team ERA. The main storyline this season will be seeing how last year's contributors like Johnson and Santis continue to mature as team leaders in the clubhouse in their senior year, and how that will stack up to Tufts' dominance. Turning that good offense into runs scored, along with keeping up a consistent pitching performance, will be key to the Panther's success as they eye their first championship since 2011.

Key competitions: Amherst College (home, April 8), Williams College (home, Senior Day, April 22), Hamilton College (away, May 6)

Women's Track and Field

Head Coach: Martin Beatty '84

Captains: Eva Kaiden '23, Kate Kenny '23, Audrey Grimes '23, Bri Johnson '23

Athletes to Watch: Ciara Dale '24, Emily Rubio '26, Katie Bruno '26, Annabel Cloney '26, Melissa White '26

The women's track and field team looks to continue its success after placing fourth in the Division III New England Championships last weekend. The team has seen meteoric success from the first years, such as Katie Bruno '26, Annabel Clooney '26 and Melissa White '26. Together with captain Eva Kaiden '23, they formed a formidable force in the 4x200 event. Also look out for Emily Rubio '26, fresh off a pentathlon win last weekend, to round out the young core of the women's track team. Last spring, the team won NESCACs outright, so the team hopes to, and can, recapture that championship form.

Key competitions: Middlebury Outdoor Invitational (home, April 22), NESCAC Championships (away, April 29), Open New England Championships (away, May 13), NCAA Championships (away, May 27)

Men's Track and Field

Head Coach: Martin Beatty '84

Captains: Peter Hansen '23, Isaac Kaplan '23, Max Cluss '23, Lucas Donovan-Lafuente '23

Athletes to Watch: Marco Motroni '25, Zander Kessler '23, Peter Hansen '23

After a successful indoor track season, the men's track and field team is beginning to shift their focus towards the spring season and getting back outside. At the Division III New England Championships this past weekend, the Panthers placed 13th out of the 25 teams competing. At the event, Quinn Kennedy '26 set the school record for the heptathlon, Cluss placed fourth in the mile with a time of 4:09.98 and Aidan Castanon '26 placed seventh in the 60-yard dash with a time of 7.02 seconds. The men's track and field team will hopefully try to build upon this success as the season progresses.

Key competitions: NCAA Indoor Championship (Birmingham, Ala., March 10–11), Amherst Spring Fling (Amherst, Mass., April 8), Middlebury Outdoor Invitational (home, April 22)

Men's Tennis

Head Coach: Andrew Thomson '10

Captains: Andrew Mueller '23.5, Robby Ward '23.5, Aidan Harris '23.5

Athletes to Watch: Neel Epstein '25, Robby Ward '23.5, Zihao Yuan '24

The Middlebury men's tennis team had a prolific season last year. The team, having a record of 21–3, won their second consecutive NESCAC final, reached the semifinals in the NCAA Men's Tennis Team Championship and saw Stan Morris '22 win the NCAA Men's Singles Championship. This year, the team hopes to continue their recent success. Despite losing key contributors like Morris, David Vilys '22 and Zachary Hilty '22, the men's tennis team still has immense talent. Epstein, for instance, reached the men's singles quarterfinals in the ITA Regional Championships this past fall. The men's tennis team should hopefully stay atop of the NESCAC and compete for a national championship this season.

Key competitions: Trinity College and St. Michael's College (home, March 4), Tufts University (away, March 11), Williams College (away, April 8)

Women's Tennis

Head Coach: Taka Bertrand

Captains: Amanda Frank '23.5, Brinlea La Barge '23

Athletes to Watch: Sahana Raman '25, Charlotte McCann '26, Claudia Miller '25

Despite having a successful 18–6 season last year, the women's tennis team suffered a couple close losses in the playoffs. In the NESCAC Championships, the team lost 5–4 to Wesleyan in the finals, and in the NCAA Women's Tennis Team Championships, they lost to the University of Chicago in the finals. The team, however, has many young stars, and they look to build on their regular season success from last year and hopefully have more postseason success. The team saw a number of successes in the fall. At the ITA Regional Championships, McCann won the Singles B Draw, and Raman and Gena Huang '24 advanced to the quarter finals of the Doubles Main Draw.

Key competitions: Trinity College (Home, March 4), Tufts University (Away, March 11), Wesleyan University (Home, March 26)

Men's Golf

Coach: Bill Beaney

Athletes to watch: Hogan Beazley '23, Sean McGarrity '23, Colin McCaigue '24

After a successful fall that culminated with the team finishing in second place at the New England Intercollegiate Golf (NEIGA) Championships, the men's golf team will be looking to ride a late burst of momentum from the fall season heading into the spring. McCaigue has distinguished himself as a key contributor to the team's success after placing second in the Ekwanok Sap Bucket Challenge. McGarrity has begun to gain attention after his stellar performances at the NEIGA Championships, during which he earned medalist honors and led the Panthers to a second place finish. Beazley has been a reliable constant throughout all of the Panther's major tournaments. With a month left before the start of the season, the Panthers will have ample time to regroup and prepare as they make their bid for aNESCAC Championship.

Key Competitions: Tim Brown Invitational (away, April 8–9), Williams Spring Invitational (away, April 22–23)

Women's Golf

Coach: Bill Mandigo

Athletes to watch: Katie Murphy '23, Jacqueline Slinkard '24, Audrey Tir '25

Consistency has been key this year for the women's golf team. Having finished in the top half of every tournament, invitational and qualifier last semester, the team appears poised to break out for a strong spring season. The lack of roster changes and successful performances at the NESCAC Qualifiers and NEIGA Championships bode well for the Panthers, ensuring that resolve will carry over to the spring. The roster has new and returning talent alike, creating a well-rounded squad that is capable of taking on any challenge thrown their way. Murphy has established herself as the team's lead competitor after finishing in the top five at the NEIGA Championships. Slinkard has also made waves after getting herself on the board across the team's previous three competitions. Tir gives graduating Panthers reason to be optimistic about the team's future after finishing seventh overall at the NEIGA Championships as well as placing in the top half of golfers during the Phinney Classic. With just over a month to prepare for the spring season, the Panthers will surely be hard at work in preparing to bring home a crown.

Key Competitions: Cortland Martin/Wallace Invitational (away, April 15–16), Jack Leaman Invitational (away, April 22–23)

Men's Lacrosse

Coach: Dave Campbell
Captains: Jack Sheehan '23, Luke Simpson '23, Tyler Forbes '23, Tom Conley '23.5, Finn Muldoon '23.5

Athletes to watch: Jack Sheehan '23, Tyler Forbes '23, William Ryan '24, Russell Thorndike '25, Billy Curtis '25

Men's lacrosse will be looking to improve on a disappointing 2022 season that saw the team finish with an 8–8 record and lose in the first round of the NESCAC Championships. The team roster has undergone few changes since last season. Sheehan established himself as the team's top scorer, posting 37 goals during the season, alongside fellow captain Forbes with 21. Ryan,Thorndike and Curtis round out the top five goal scorers on the team, presenting a bright future for the Panthers as they look to their regular and championship seasons with increased vigor. With the first game of the season right around the corner, it will be interesting to see how the Panthers respond to last year's adversity.

Key Competitions: Bowdoin (home, March 4), Connecticut College (away, March 11), Trinity College (home, March 18)

Women's Lacrosse

Coach: Kate Livesay '03

Captains: Jane Earley '23, Erica Barr '23, Annie Enrietto '23

Athletes to watch: Jane Earley '23, Susan Rowley '24, Hope Shue '25

The 2022 women's lacrosse season saw a near-perfect run by the Panthers, laying waste to any unfortunate team that found itself standing in front of the opposite goal. Accolades were strewn among the team's feet: NESCAC most goals scored, NESCAC least goals conceded, a perfect in-conference record, 23–1 overall record and NCAA DIII Champions. While there's no guarantee that this trophy case of achievements will be repeated, it is certain that the women's lacrosse team will be looking to continue their dominant performances during the 2023 spring season. Aiding these attempts is the fact that the roster largely remains the same with many key contributors and depth pieces returning for another season. Earley should be at the forefront of each opposing team's mind after tallying up a mind-blowing 80 goals during the previous season. Flanking her on the stat sheet and on the field are Rowley and Shue, both of whom were consistent contributors to the Panthers' successes during last season's playoffs and ranked among the top three goal scorers at 35 and 56 goals respectively. With the season kicking off on March 4, students should look to see just how high this team can climb.

Key Competitions: Bowdoin (away, March 4), Tufts (home, April 1), Colby (away, April 15)